

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 6 June 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Ext 7217

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Concord Times
Friday, 6 June 2008

speaking on the theme. pp

to take the lead roles in

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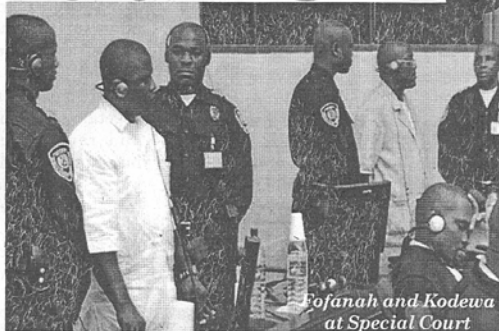
John Benjamin, consultant

'CDF had no right to fight'

By Tanu Jalloh

Human Rights Watch has observed that Special Court's ruling rejecting sentence reductions for two convicted militia members because they fought for a "legitimate cause" was crucial in ensuring justice for victims of human rights violations.

The appeals chamber of the UN-backed hybrid tribunal handed down a majority judgment on May 28 in the sentencing of Moinina Fofana



Fofana and Kodewa at Special Court

and Allieu Kondewa; former leaders of the pro government Civil Defence Forces during Sierra Leone's brutal armed conflict that ended in 2002.

However, two out of the five judges that constitute the appeals chamber dissented.

Both men had earlier been convicted of war crimes involving extreme acts of violence such as mutilations against civilians with minimal sentences on the grounds that they had engaged in the conflict

to secure democracy.

The appeals chamber rejected that portion of the ruling. Consistent with this and other findings, the appeals chamber increased Fofana's sentence from six to 15 years and Kondewa's sentence from eight to 20 years.

"This decision rightly affirms that there is no excuse for attacking and mutilating civilians regardless of the purpose in fighting," said Elise
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case, which would have

Kabbia noted that Sierra

international

'CDF had no right to fight'

From page 1

Keppler, international justice senior counsel at Human Rights Watch.

However, following the decision, Justice George Gelaga-King appended a dissenting opinion in respect of counts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the indictment for which the majority of his distinguished colleagues find the accused Moinina Fofana and the Appellant Allieu Kondewa guilty, and concurred with them in finding him not guilty, under counts 5, 6, 7 and 8.

"President Kabbah created and established the Civil Defence Force (CDF) from his exile in Guinea... The CDF was empowered to link up the

various militia groups in Sierra Leone, organise the Kamajors and other civil defence forces and coordinate their activities with those of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), for the purpose of conducting military operations to reinstate the democratically elected Government."

Meanwhile, the New York based organisation has analysed why motives behind waging war are not an acceptable basis to mitigate sentences in a memorandum.

The Special Court trial chamber found the defendants guilty of very serious violations of

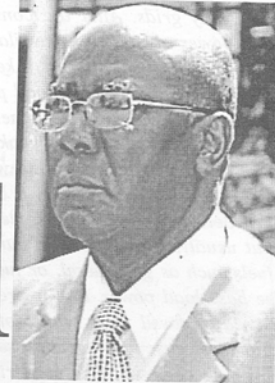
international humanitarian law following testimony from more than 100 witnesses who described barbaric crimes that included mutilations, targeting, and deliberate killing of unarmed men, women, and children, and the murder of women who had sticks inserted and forced into their genitals.

"The ruling reinforces the principle that all parties in a conflict must abide by the same rules and be subject to the same punishment," said Keppler.

"To do less would provide victims unequal protection under the law depending on who their attackers are."

EXPOSED!

Ex-President Kabbah linked to mining in Kono under AFRC junta



Kabbah

...Special Court witness reveals

BY ALPHONSUS ZEON IN THE HAGUE

Former president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has been linked to the mining of diamonds in the eastern Kono district when he was in exile in neighbouring Guinea following his overthrow in May 1997.

Under cross-examination at the trial of the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor at the Special Court in The Hague, prosecution witness Samuel Kargbo said the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta had strong suspicions that Mr Kabbah was using his Sierra Leone People's Party members in the diamond exploitation in Sierra Leone.

"...we had a report that some people who were strong supporters of the SLPP and who were in Kono were pretending to be loyal

to us, the AFRC, and we allowed them. They were mining and they were sending diamonds to Guinea", Kargbo said.

Magistrate Ganda issues fake receipts in court

BY ISHMAEL DUMBUYA

Despite the relentless effort of the Justice Sector Development Programme to clean the Judiciary of corruption and fraudulent practices, it appears as if some Magistrates are still coping with the old

Taylor's defence lawyer, Terry Munyard asked if the miners were sending items to Guinea where Mr Kabbah and the rest of his government were, to which Kargbo answered in the affirmative.

Munyard asked what the diamond deal was between Mr

Kabbah and the then Nigerian leader Sani Abacha to which the witness answered "by then we did not know..."

The Prosecution accuses Taylor

of ordering RUF rebels to hold diamond-rich Kono while he supplied them with arms in exchange for gems.

ECOMOG, the West African force, later moved in and restored

CONTINUED PAGE 19

fashion practices to paint an ugly picture of the judicial system in the country. In a letter sent to the Master and Registrar and copied to the Deputy Master and Registrar, a complainant at Ngobeh's Com-

pound, Mopama Section in the Kailahun District has stated in his letter that Magistrate A.T Ganda is busy defrauding people huge sums of money in the district.

The letter of complaint sent in by Mr. Sao' Lansana Ngobeh clearly

alleged that Magistrate Ganda of Kailahun Magistrate Court is levying exorbitant fines, receiving money without receipts, issuing ordinary paper instead of the recognized government NRA receipt or

CONTINUED PAGE 19

Ex-President Kabbah linked to mining in Kono under AFRC junta

FROM PAGE 1

the government of Tejan Kabbah.

Kargbo said that long before the ECOMOG intervention, the government of Charles Taylor had recognized the AFRC/RUF junta shortly after they took over in May of 1997. But Taylor's lawyer said this could not have been possible as Taylor was inaugurated four months after the rebels had seized power in Freetown. He said

that during that period officials of the AFRC junta were not allowed to pass through Liberia to attend their meeting in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan. Witness Kargbo said that even though ECOWAS leaders denounced the coup, Liberia, Burkina Faso and Niger recognized them. Munday said even the then Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings "had connection with the junta [who]...particularly

looked to [him] as a kind of godfather". This the witness denied saying "We did not have anything to do with him".

Charles Taylor denies connections with the rebels. His lawyers maintain his role in the crisis in Sierra Leone was only in his capacity as a peace mediator.

Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground.

Standard Times
Friday, 6 June 2008

Taylor's lawyer links Israeli & Lebanese to RUF arms supplies

BY ALPHONSUS ZEON

Charles Taylor's lawyers have continued the cross-examination of the 28th Prosecution witness Samuel Kargbo at the war crimes trial of the former Liberian president. *CONTINUED PAGE 19*

Taylor's lawyer links Israeli & Lebanese to RUF arms supplies

FROM PAGE 1

Defence lawyer Terry Munyard is casting doubts on previous evidence Kargbo gave at the trial. In their attempt to render as untrue Prosecution charges that Taylor was the arms supplier to the rebel RUF and their allies the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, Munyard is pointing to potential sources of arms supplied to the rebels.

The British lawyer drew the witness's attention to the rebels' association with an Israeli arms dealer, known only as Ziff.

"Do you know a man called Ziff?" he asked. "Yes" the witness responded. "Who is Ziff, Mr Kargbo?" Munyard asked. "It was a white man that I knew since the NPRC days, but I don't actually know his nationality." He replied.

"You knew that the NPRC dealt with Ziff, didn't you?" Munyard pressed on, and the witness responded in the affirmative. "And he was an arms dealer, wasn't he?"

"I did not know what he was dealing in by then" Kargbo replied.

In an attempt to defeat the Prosecution's allegations that the rebels sold diamonds to Taylor in exchange for guns, Munyard also indicated that two Lebanese diamond dealers usually bought stones from AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma.

Some diamonds used to buy rice and other supplies; these transactions involved Kazim and Tariq Mackie.

The witness agreed that the two were diamond dealers who Johnny Paul knew and dealt with them in diamonds on more than one occasion.

"Did Johnny Paul ever buy arms as a result of the money that he made

from his diamond dealings with Kazim and Tariq Mackie?" Munyard asked, to which Kargbo replied "Like I stated in my statement, those were the - that was what we used for our salaries, rice, fuel and for the generators. We did not use the money to buy arms."

Munyard said when Kargbo spoke to Prosecution interviewers in November 2007; he made no mention of going to Foya in Liberia to meet Sam Bockarie to receive a supply of ammunition as he indicated just last month in court. In fact, Munyard drew in to question Kargbo's evidence that a Land Cruiser-load of ammunition from Liberia filled a one-room size rebel ware house in Buedu in Sierra Leone.

Following is a part of the cross examination on this issue:

MUNYARD: "We packed them in the store and it filled the whole store, a whole room. When we packed it in the room I can't tell the size of the room, but it was fairly big." That was what you said on 22 May and you have now demonstrated the size. Tell me, how were they able to get five people plus that volume of materials into a Land Cruiser?"

KARGBO: Well I wouldn't know, but that was their own strategy.

MUNYARD: No, Mr Kargbo, a Land Cruiser would not be big enough to fill an entire storeroom of the dimensions you've just shown us and carry five other people as well...would it?

KARGBO: I wonder if you know the Land Cruiser I am talking about. It is the one with the car behind. It is not the one that is covered all over

Exclusive

Friday, 6 May 2008

Kabbah Indicted

From front page
By Alphonsus Zeon in
The Hague

Former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has been linked to the mining of diamonds in the eastern Kono district when he was in exile in neighbouring Guinea following his overthrow in May 1997.

Under cross-examination at the trial of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor at the Special Court in The Hague, prosecution witness, Samuel Kargbo said the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta had strong suspicions that Mr Kabbah was using his Sierra Leone People's Party members in the diamond exploitation in Sierra Leone.

"...we had a report that some people who were strong supporters of the SLPP and who were in Kono were pretending to be loyal to us, the AFRC, and we allowed them. They were mining and they were send-

ing diamonds to Guinea", Kargbo said.

Taylor's defence lawyer, Terry Munyard asked if the miners were sending items to Guinea where Mr Kabbah and the rest of his government were, to which Kargbo answered in the affirmative.

Munyard asked what the diamond deal was between Mr Kabbah and the then Nigerian leader Sani Abacha to which the witness answered "by then we did not know..."

The Prosecution accuses Taylor of ordering RUF rebels to hold diamond-rich Kono while he supplied them with arms in exchange for gems.

ECOMOG, the West African force, later moved in and restored the government of Tejan Kabbah.

Kargbo said that long before the ECOMOG intervention, the government of Charles Taylor had recognized the AFRC/RUF junta shortly after they took over in May of 1997. But Taylor's lawyer said this could not

have been possible as Taylor was inaugurated four months after the rebels had seized power in Freetown. He said that during that period officials of the AFRC junta were not allowed to pass through Liberia to attend their meeting in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan.

Witness Kargbo said that even though ECOWAS leaders denounced the coup, Liberia, Burkina Faso and Niger recognised them.

Munyard said even the then Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings "had connection with the junta [who]... particularly looked to [him] as a kind of godfather". This the witness denied saying "We did not have anything to do with him".

Charles Taylor denies connections with the rebels. His lawyers maintain his role in the crisis in Sierra Leone was only in his capacity as a peace mediator.

THE SPECTATOR

Thursday 5th June, 2008

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Former President Kabbah linked to mining in Kono under AFRC junta

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This the witness denied saying "We did not have anything to do with him". Charles Taylor denies connections with the rebels. His lawyers maintain his role in the crisis in Sierra Leone was only in his capacity as a peace mediator.

Realising that the Press Conference called by the visiting delegation of the UN Peacebuilding Commission scheduled to take place in the Press Briefing Room at Mammy Yoko Hotel on Thursday 5 June clashes with the regular Government Press Briefing on the 7th floor of Youyi Building, we wish to inform the media that the Delegation will now move to Youyi Building for a joint Press Conference. Journalists are thus advised not to come to Mammy Yoko as earlier mentioned in a Press Release.

Taylor defence links Israeli, Lebanese to RUF arms supplies

Alphonsus Zeon

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Defence lawyer Terry Munyard is casting doubts on previous evidence Kargbo gave at the trial. In their attempt to render as untrue Prosecution charges that Taylor was the arms supplier to the rebel RUF and their allies the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, Munyard is pointing to potential sources of arms supplied to the rebels.

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which Kargbo replied "Like I stated in my statement, those were the - that was what we used for our salaries, rice, fuel and for the generators. We did not use the money to buy arms."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon it by Section 112 of the Electoral Laws Act, 2002, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) HERE BY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING DATES AS CAMPAIGN PERIOD BY POTENTIAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR the Local Council elections scheduled on the 5th July of 2008:

9 June of 2008 COMMENCEMENT OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

3RD JULY OF 2008 END OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

NOW THEREFORE, all stake holders, including the political parties, the independent candidates and their supporters, are advised at all times to abide by the Code on Election campaign ethics, Code of Conduct for Political Parties published by the Political Parties Registration Commission, and all relevant laws.

Dated this 28th day of May 2008

Signed

Dr. Christiana A.M. Thorpe
CEC/Chairperson/NATIONAL Returning Officer
National Electoral Commission

Ottawa Citizen

Friday, 6 June 2008

No boys on the battlefield

The Ottawa Citizen

Published: Friday, June 06, 2008

Of all the wars raging today, there are 17 in which children are soldiers -- which is good news, because just a few years ago, there were 27 such conflicts.

This is the news from the latest report of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. But the tone of the report is far from celebratory. The biggest reason for the decline in numbers seems to be that several conflicts have ended, such as those in Liberia or Sierra Leone. As new conflicts arise, there's no guarantee that they won't involve the recruitment of children.

The real good news has little to do with numbers, and more to do with global attitudes. A century ago, even civilized governments thought little of putting boys in uniforms and handing them guns. Now, the list of governments that recruit children is relatively small and, by and large, unsurprising. It includes Chad, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Yemen.

"The most notable offender remains Myanmar (Burma), whose armed forces, engaged in long-running counter-insurgency operations against a range of ethnic armed groups, are believed to contain thousands of children," according to the report. Some of those children are as young as 11.

The nations of the world have collectively condemned the use of child soldiers. Ishmael Beah, a reformed child soldier from Sierra Leone, has told the world his story and has been treated, rightly, as a victim.

The most important trend is the use of the international justice system to deter mass recruitment of children. Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, is on trial in The Hague; one count of the indictment is for using child soldiers. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for another notorious mass abuser of children, Joseph Kony of Uganda, and for his cronies.

For the first time in history, warlords face justice for the mass abduction, indoctrination, drugging, torture and rape of children.

The challenge now -- and it is a difficult one -- is to prevent future recruitment and abduction campaigns. Even criminals have codes of honour; it's possible warlords might one day be convinced to regard the abuse of children as beyond a moral threshold -- or at least, not worth the risk. International law might act as a deterrent.

Demobilizing masses of children in existing conflicts has, so far, proven to be nearly impossible. The only real solution, once the children are already involved, is peace: "On the ground, tens of thousands of child soldiers have been released from armies and armed groups since 2004 as long-running conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa have ended," the coalition reports.

Those children will need help, for years to come. So will the babies born of the rape of teenage girl soldiers.

Canadians have been watching the case of Omar Khadr, our own child soldier, recruited by his father and on trial now at Guantanamo Bay. Child fighters must be reintroduced to civilian life, or they will remain twisted, ashamed and addicted to violence. No one yet knows how Mr. Khadr's personality has been shaped by his experiences, and by his lack of rehabilitation.

As long as there are madmen and bad men, there will probably always be children who are forced into hellish lives. The challenge for good people is to find ways to punish evil and to undo as much of the damage as we can.

United Nations  Nations Unies
United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
5 June 2008**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

Newspaper Summary

Lawmakers Converge in Buchanan for Budget Retreat

(The Informer, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Analyst)

- The House of Representatives will today, Thursday, converge in the coastal city of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County to begin a three-day budget appraisal retreat. The budget retreat will be held under the theme: "Strengthening Budget Making and Oversight."
- According to a release, several top-notch financial specialists including Former Finance Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, Former Budget Director, Emmanuel O. Gardner and UL Professor Geegbae A. Geegbae are expected to deliver papers on the Legislative and budgetary process at the retreat. The Director of Press and Public Affairs Isaac G. Redd said following the retreat, the House Committees on Ways, Means and Finance and Public Accounts and Expenditure will conduct series of interactive meetings with relevant government agencies to defend the proposed 2008/2009 fiscal budget. Few weeks ago, The Executive submitted a draft fiscal budget of over US\$270 million for 2008/2009 for review and subsequent passage.

Rule of Law Guarantees Political Freedom Says SRSJ Ellen Løj

(Heritage, The News, National Chronicle)

- The Special Representative of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, Ellen Løj says the rule of law is the best guarantor for ensuring political and economic freedom in every society. SRSJ Løj said the rule of law is one of the key benchmarks for attracting foreign investors. Speaking on Wednesday at the Monrovia City Hall when she presented ceremony UN medals to the Nigerian police serving in UNMIL, she said Nigeria has over the years played a leading role in UN peacekeeping operations and spearheaded African regional and sub-regional peacekeeping initiatives.
- The senior UN envoy noted that Nigerian troops and police officers are currently serving in nine UN peacekeeping missions in the world, and commended the Nigerian police for their contribution in the restoration of peace and stability to Liberia. During the program, 26 Nigerian police officers and one immigration officer were decorated with UN medals.

Government Dispatches Mediation Team to Maryland

(The Inquirer, The News, The Analyst, Liberian Express)

- A government delegation headed by Internal Affairs Minister Ambulai Johnson is in Harper, Maryland County, to mediate in a crisis that has virtually brought the county to a standstill.
- The team which also includes, Justice Minister Philip Banks, Senator John Ballout and senior security officials yesterday held a meeting with the people of Yanbo to understand and resolve the conflict. The Inquirer reports that addressing the two officials yesterday the protestors welcomed the intervention but vowed to remain at the City Hall until their concerns are fully addressed.
- On Tuesday, citizens of Nyanbo stormed the Harper City Hall forcibly occupying offices including the magisterial and circuit courts to demand justice in the killing of their kinsmen recently.. Tension has been brewing in Maryland since two persons died and four other were injured in a violent land dispute. Meanwhile, the News newspaper quoting Information

Minister, Laurence Bropleh said a team of prosecutors are in the area to handle the legal aspect of the conflict.

- Counsellors J.D. Baryogar Junius and Robert Chattah will lead government legal team in prosecuting 24 persons arrested and charged with various crimes in connection with the death of two residents. Tension has been brewing in Maryland since two persons died and four other were injured in a violent land dispute.

Postal Syndicate Unearthed....Transport Minister Reveals

(Daily Observer, Heritage)

- The Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Jeremiah C. Solunteh has disclosed government has uncovered illegal trading of the Liberian stamps on the world market. The Heritage quotes Minister Sulonteh as saying that two entities in the United States and the United Kingdom have connection with the illegal trade. The Minister who said the act has been going on since 2005 disclosed that that an Israeli company (name not given) has printed and flooded the international market with 'fake Liberian postal stamps'. The Daily Observer reports that speaking at a news conference on Wednesday, the Postal Affairs Minister who is also Liberia's Post Master General said with the help of the United States Postal Service it has been discovered that the unscrupulous businesses have accumulated a bank balance of US\$115,000.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

Government Dispatches Mediation Team To Maryland

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

House of Representatives to Decide Fate of Major Draft Health Bill Today

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Government gives Two Week Ultimatum to People Occupying Public Buildings

- Speaking to reporters in Monrovia, Information Minister, Laurence Bropleh said government has given people residing in unfinished public buildings two weeks to vacate.
- The ultimatum follows a fire incident on Tuesday which gutted the basement of the unfinished National Housing and Savings Bank Building.
- Minister Bropleh said as of June 27, government would ensure that the residents are removed.
- He accused the occupants of these building of not only illegally living there but are also engaged in criminal activities.
- The Minister said the clearing of the buildings would enable the Public Works Ministry to carry out assessment for completion works to begin.
- Government has allocated some funding in the 2008/09 fiscal budget for the completion of public buildings. Among public buildings targeted are the new Health Ministry, E. J. Roye and the unfinished National Housing and Savings Bank.

Sight Savers International Ends Visit To Maryland

- A four-man team from Sight Savers International and the Health Ministry has ended a three-day assessment visit to Harper, Maryland County.
- The SSI Head of Programme Funding, Ben Hofnigger said the visit was to finalize plans with partners for a 12-month eye care service program for locals.
- Mr. Hofnigger said the program valued at US\$200,000 is funded by Irish Aid.
- Sight Savers International is the main partner of the Ministry of Health in its river blindness programme and has been in the Southeast since 2001.

Voice of America

Friday, 6 June 2008

World Court Prosecutor Says He Plans New Indictments Against Sudanese Officials

By VOA News

06 June 2008

The chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court has told the United Nations Security Council he plans to seek new indictments against Sudanese officials linked to the conflict in Darfur.



AP Photo

Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told the Security Council Thursday that the entire Darfur region is "a crime scene," where rapes, attacks on schools, and seizures of land regularly occur. He said such things could only occur on such a broad scale with the compliance of the government.

He did not name the new officials he intends to prosecute.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo (file photo)

Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, told a visiting U.N. Security Council delegation in Khartoum that his country will not cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

He also told council members that Sudan is the subject of an unfair and ill-intentioned campaign from some quarters, bent on exploiting the crisis in Darfur.

President Bashir also told the council that a crisis between the country's north and south over the contested oil region of Abyei would soon be resolved through dialogue.

In another development Thursday, the U.N. and A.U. envoys to Darfur say prospects for substantive peace talks on the Darfur crisis are not good. The diplomats failed to get peace negotiations between Sudan's government and Darfur rebels re-started during a two-day meeting in Geneva.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged Sudan Thursday to cooperate with the International Criminal Court over its indictments of Darfur war crimes suspects. The court issued arrest warrants for two crime suspects more than a year ago. Sudan has refused to hand over the two men.

Darfur has been mired in five years of conflict between rebels, the Sudanese government and government-backed militias. The United Nations says the conflict has displaced some 2 1/2 million people and killed up to 300,000 others. Sudan says 10,000 have been killed.

Voice of America

Friday, 6 June 2008

Sudan President Vows Not to Cooperate with World Court

By Margaret Besheer
Khartoum

Sudan's President has told a U.N. Security Council delegation that his country will not cooperate with the International Criminal Court, which has accused his government of being involved in crimes in Darfur. The president met with the visiting delegation late Thursday in Khartoum, after the ambassadors returned from a brief visit to the war-torn Darfur region. VOA's Margaret Besheer is traveling with the delegation and files this report from the Sudanese capital.

During an hour and a half long meeting with the visiting ambassadors, President Omar al-Bashir told them he would not cooperate with the court, which is seeking the arrest of two Sudanese - a government minister and a militia commander - on charges of war crimes, and which just announced it would bring new charges against senior government members for involvement in crimes in Darfur.

British Ambassador John Sawers said the council raised the subject of the court with Mr. Bashir and asked for Sudan's cooperation and arrest of the two men. "His response was that Sudan was not a party to the ICC and would not hand over any of its citizens to international courts," he said.

Security Council members and the ICC say Sudan must comply under the terms U.N. resolution 1593 which demands the government's compliance with the court. Diplomats said they would consider other measures to press Sudan to cooperate.

Sawers said the council raised several other issues with the Sudanese president, including full implementation of the 2005 peace deal that ended the north-south civil war, and which some observers worry could unravel in the wake of recent violence such as the clashes in the disputed oil-rich region of Abyei that displaced tens of thousands of people.

In a statement at the beginning of the meeting, President Bashir said the dispute over Abyei would be settled very soon. "I am pleased to inform you that it will soon be settled through consultations between the two partners," he said.

South Africa's Ambassador, Dumisani Kumalo, told reporters that without going into details, President Bashir said an agreement has been worked out. He told the delegation it would be sent to the parliament in the semi-autonomous south on Friday, and that by June 10 it would be finalized.

The council also raised concerns about attacks on humanitarian convoys in Darfur, which have forced the World Food Program to cut rations in half because they cannot get adequate food supplies to the conflict zone.

The delegation heard more about these difficulties earlier in the day, when they flew to ElFasher in North Darfur, where they made a very brief stop at a camp that houses more than 54,000 displaced persons.

Leaders and elected representatives of the Zam Zam IDP camp met privately for about half an hour with the ambassadors. The delegation also met with the local governor and had lunch with humanitarian

workers. The brief stop was intended to give the delegation a better sense of the situation on the ground in Darfur.

Friday, the Security Council crosses the border to Chad, where they will visit refugee and IDP camps in Goz Beida before meeting with President Idriss Deby in the capital Friday evening.

BBC

Thursday, 5 June 2008

France deports genocide suspect

France has deported a genocide suspect to the UN Rwandan war crimes tribunal based in neighbouring Tanzania.

Dominique Ntawukuriryayo, a former regional governor, was arrested in southern France last year.

Prosecutors accuse him of taking part in the massacre of up to 25,000 Tutsis over a five-day period in April 1994.

Mr Ntawukuriryayo, 65, has denied the charges. He has French residency papers, and had lived in the town of Carcassonne since 1999.

He is the third fugitive wanted by the tribunal to be arrested in France.

Mr Ntawukuriryayo, born in 1942, was a sub-prefect in the area of Gisagara at the time of the killings in Kabuye Hill.

The AFP news agency reports that he was living in France with his Tutsi wife.

Since 1997 the tribunal has convicted 30 ringleaders of the genocide and acquitted five people.

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed during the 100-day massacre in 1994.



Dominique Ntawukuriryayo reportedly has a Tutsi wife